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Hamfest 2021 -- Our Biggest Ever!

A beautiful Summer day, a great new location and a big team of dedicated club members all combined to make EGARA's 2021 Hamfest its biggest and best ever! And, with over \$4,000 in prizes from 19 sponsors, the event drew hundreds of hams from all over New York's Capital District and the Great Northeast.

"This year's Hamfest broke all the records," said club president Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. "That includes attendance, prize totals, and vendors. It was a great day overall -- and we thank everyone who supported us."

The event wasn't without its challenges. The first was moving to the new location at the East Greenbush Town Park. To help protect against the pandemic, the facilities needed to be sanitized first. That meant the usual Friday evening set up had to be delayed until 4 am Saturday morning. Despite the early hour, club members showed up in force to set up vendor tables, post sponsor signs, get the PA system running, fire up the kitchen, and get the admission gate open.

Shortly after daybreak, hams began rolling in to take advantage of prime tailgating spots available in front of the park's Red Barn building, which served as the center point for the event's activities. The first 100 admissions also received a free baseball hat courtesy of Yaesu, as well as a pen from West Mountain Radio. The admission gate was soon out of both.

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Hams turned out by the hundreds to enjoy EGARA's Hamfest 2021 drawn by over \$4,000 in prizes and raffles

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FCC Application Fees Unlikely to Go into Effect Until 2022

The new schedule of FCC Amateur Radio application fees likely will not go into effect before 2022. FCC staff has confirmed that the agency is still working on changes to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) software and other processes and procedures that must be in place before it starts collecting fees from Amateur applicants.

Once it's effective, the \$35 application fee will apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign changes), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application. Administrative update applications, such as those to change a licensee's name, mailing, or email address, will be exempt from fees.

In addition, ARRL VEC manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not face the burden of collecting the \$35 fee. "Once the FCC application fee takes effect, new and upgrade applicants will pay the exam session fee to the VE team as usual, but they'll pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC using the FCC Pay Fees system,"

Next Membership Meeting - September 8, 2021 - Masonic Lodge at 7 pm

Hamfest 2021 Breaks Records...

Overall, Jackson said at least two dozen club members were on hand to work the event. Despite being unable to access the park ahead of time, many were at the Masonic Lodge Friday evening to load Hamfest supplies in their cars to prep for the early Saturday set up. Russ Greenman, KC2LXC, provided his van and was able to take a majority of the gear in one trip.

Earlier Friday, Don Mayotte, KB2CDX and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, picked up the food and beverages for the event. They arranged with the East Greenbush Parks Department to get it in the refrigerators at the Red Barn by 3 pm.



Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, flashes the victory sign after loading in lots food and beverages for the Hamfest

A large group of members were at the park by 4 am to get things underway. Although short handed in the kitchen, Dave Williams, N2VLQ, Tim Antonacci, WA2WDX, and Dave Smith, WA2WAP, had fresh hot coffee made and delicious breakfast sandwiches coming off the grill in quick time.

Meanwhile, another team quickly unloaded and set up 8 foot folding tables throughout the building for use by vendors. The tables were generously loaned to EGARA by the Rensselaer County Search and Rescue Unit thanks to Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO, who is a member of both organizations.

The highlight of the day was the giveaway of more than \$4,000 in prizes and raffles. More than a dozen HT radios were handed out to lucky winners thanks to Wouxun, Radioddity and BTEch. In addition, dozens of shack accessories were supplied by MFJ, R&L Electronics, KJI Electronics and West Mountain Radio, while DX Engineering, ARRL, RT Systems N3FJP Software, LDG and MTC provided gift certificates.

The day was capped off when Channel 6 aired a story about the Hamfest on its 11 pm newscast.

Now its on to Hamfest 2022!

Hamfest Honor Roll

Hamfest 2021 was a success thanks to the hard work and dedication of many club members. EGARA wishes to thank the following for their outstanding effort. Please let us know if we've inadvertently missed anyone.

- Dave Williams, N2VLQ
- Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR
- Don Mayotte, KB2CDX
- Russ Greenman, WB2LXC
- Carl Greenman, KC2UTC
- Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU
- Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ
- Dave Gillette, KC2RPU
- Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC
- Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO
- Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL
- Tim Antonacci, WA2WDX
 - Steve Marsh, KC2USX
 - Deb Mariani, KC2ULU
 - Anthony Marsh
 - Nick Field, KD2JCR
 - Walt Synder, N2WJR
- Dave Smith, WA2WAP
 - Joe Ostering, N2CJF
 - Bob Stanley, W2RBS
 - Dave Jaeger, K2DEJ
 - Tom Woodson, N4PXB
- Shawn Brownstein, KC2GMB
 - Bill Hickey, KD2WQN

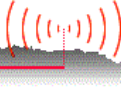
Hamfest 2021 Photo Gallery



Photos by:

Dave Gillette, KC2RPU &
Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

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On the Beam

News & Notes

Sailing Vessel with Ham Radio History Marks 100 Years

The schooner Bowdoin is a century old this year -- but the ham radio history of the 88-foot (LOA) Bowdoin is often neglected.

Now owned by the Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) as a training vessel, it was constructed in Maine specifically for Arctic exploration. The vessel relied on Amateur Radio for communication during explorer Donald B. MacMillan's Arctic Expedition of 1923 and on the MacMillan-McDonald-Byrd Expedition of 1925 — thanks in part to ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW.



The long wave transmitters MacMillan used on his earlier missions had proved “unable to penetrate the screen of the aurora borealis,” as then-ARRL historian Michael Marinaro, WN1M (SK), explained in his article, “Polar Exploration,” in the June 2014 issue of QST. In 1923, MacMillan turned to ARRL for help in outfitting his next expedition with better wireless gear. Marinaro recounted, “It was enthusiastically provided.” Maxim and the ARRL Board recruited Donald H. Mix, 1TS, of Bristol, Connecticut, to accompany the crew as its radio operator.

M.B. West, an ARRL Board member, designed the gear, which was then built by fellow amateur operators at his firm, Zenith Electronics. The transmitter operated on the medium-wave bands of 185, 220, and 300 meters, running 100 W to a pair of Western Electric “G” tubes. Earlier exploratory missions had used gear that operated on long wave frequencies. The shipboard station on board the Bowdoin was given the call sign WNP — Wireless North Pole.

“WNP transmitted weekly 500-word press releases and listings of stations worked and heard,” Marinaro said. “Once received by amateur stations, these reports were delivered to local affiliated newspapers of the North American Newspaper Alliance; from there, they were distributed syndicate-wide by telegraph.”



Don Mix, 1TS, in the Bowdoin's radio room

MacMillan's subsequent attempt at the North Pole centered around wireless. The objectives -- supported by the Navy and the National Geographic Society -- were to determine the full capabilities of radio north of the auroral belt and to explore the northern reaches by air.

The outstanding accomplishment of the 1925 expedition was in the sphere of radio. Utilizing shortwaves, the expedition was in consistent contact with the outside world throughout the journey, to the delight of the amateurs who were able to work them. The phenomenal success proved to the Navy that shortwaves were definitely superior to the long waves and ultra long waves that fleets had been using.

The venerable vessel -- the official vessel of the State of Maine and the flagship of Maine Maritime Academy's Vessel Operations and Technology Program -- recently underwent a complete hull restoration and refitting and has done a little touring to mark its centenary.

Today, the Bowdoin's home port is Castine, Maine.

EGARA July/August Meeting Minutes

- The July meeting of the Egara was called to order at 7:04PM. There were 13 members who attended at the Masonic Temple. President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- A VE license exam Session was held on July 10th, and the paperwork was received by ARRL the following Monday. The FCC database was updated and the licensee's information appeared on Wednesday. Also, New Ham kits, as supplied at the VE sessions, continue to generate interest from other clubs who have contacted W2RBJ from all over the world.
- Members have continued to mow the grass at the Masonic Lodge and maintain the building. Russ Greenman repaired the discharge chute on the push mower, and changed the oil on both mowers.
- Field day was conducted by six Egara club members. The points total was 1,422 – Joe Ostering made the most QSO's and was given special recognition for his Herculean effort. Hopefully, next year FD operation will be held at one central location, and the USS Slater has mentioned using the ship for FD 2022.
- We are still waiting for the go-ahead to install the 220 repeater in the Helderberg location. A draft agreement was sent to the station management and the local engineer of WGNA-FM.
- The Treasurer, Don Mayotte KB2CDX gave his report, and the club treasury is in good financial standing.
- The July meeting was concluded at 8:03 PM.

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- The August meeting of the Egara was called to order at 7:06PM. A total of 21 members attended at the Masonic Lodge;
 - There was no Treasurer's Report nor any minutes presented.
 - Bryan Jackson reported that he had sent a news release concerning the Egara Hamfest to the local media.
 - The Hudson River ARRL director was contacted and asked to send out an email about the Hamfest since Egara received no coverage in QST Magazine. The Egara website has GPS coordinates and a map with directions for attendees.
 - Mouser Electronics has sent a contribution to the Hamfest and all sponsors have now sent their prizes.
 - Hamfest Job assignments were reviewed and confirmed, with ample discussion. The volunteers' shirts were distributed. The shirts were generously donated by Egara member Joe Ostering, N2CJF of Riverview Stitch & Print in Deep River, CT.
 - Door prize tickets were drawn. Orders were taken for custom "Ham Radio" T-Shirts with special Ham Fest pricing (discount) from Riverview Stitch & Print.
 - Refreshments and cold drinks were provided to the club members. The meeting was concluded at 8:02 PM.
 - Submitted by Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR - Secretary

Chip Shortage Continues to Hit Electronic Equipment Supply

The severity of the global computer chip shortage has electronic equipment manufacturers finding creative ways to manage supply channels while trying to meet product demand. Equipment suppliers said they hope the semiconductor shortage will ease soon, perhaps by early 2022. In the meantime, the availability of some electronics -- including Amateur Radio gear -- remains strained.



The pandemic has disrupted global supply chains for integrated circuits since early 2020, as factories closed and transportation was delayed due to the pandemic. Surging demand for motor vehicles and other consumer electronic products, prompted in part by economic stimulus measures, have also exacerbated the situation.

Gene Niemiec, owner of KJI Electronics, said supply of new ham radios has tightened but that he's been working closely with companies such as Yaesu to fill his orders. "But as soon as a shipment arrives, they're sold and out the door," he said.

A number of equipment suppliers confirmed that their difficulty in sourcing components has worsened in recent months. For example, the scarcity of chips has had an impact on HD Radio. This summer, General Motors decided to exclude HD Radio on certain pickup truck models in the 2021 and 2022 model years.

Scott Stiefel, COO of Telos Alliance, said a series of unplanned events — including fires at two chip factories in Japan — combined with the pandemic to contribute to the shortage. "The same challenges affecting the auto, computer or household electronics industry are there for us," he said.

"Chip shortages, end-of-life issues for low-volume components, as well as global logistics problems. But without question, the factory fires at the AKM and Renesas Fabrication facilities have impacted the electronics industry, already taxed by the COVID-related shortages. The mass buying and stockpiling over and above the normal demand have also created shortages in both supply as well as in logistics. Again not directly attributable to COVID, but a side effect of consumer behavior."

Prices for chips are also up -- and in some cases dramatically. For Inovonics, a broadcast equipment manufacturer, a microprocessor it normally pays \$14 for is now \$60. And lead times have also been extended in many cases to 42 weeks or longer.

The shortage has affected virtually all parts including ICs, SMD parts, power supplies and even metal chassis. In addition, there are only a handful of companies that make the analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog components used in phones, cameras and just about anything that converts audio between analog and digital.

The chip shortage is also affecting some electronic manufacturer's research and development efforts and work on new products.

But chips aren't the only thing being affected. Steel prices in July were up 215% from 16 months prior, according to Fortune. That potentially means a worsening shortage may scramble supply chains and increase the cost of towers.

The History of Ham Radio: Twenty-two in'22

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

Driven by rapidly expanding and radically changing uses of radio, a fitful and frustrating process of legislative and regulatory proposals and counter proposals was just beginning and would continue for a decade or more before it would begin to stabilize.

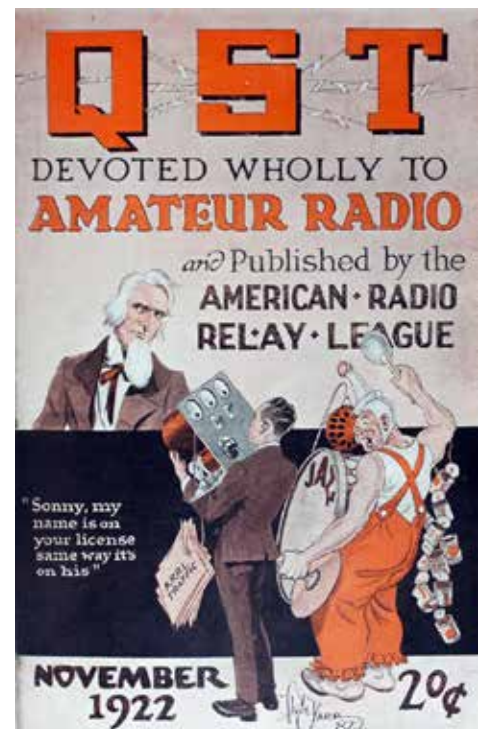
As spring arrived in 1922, new broadcasting stations packed the air with signals as growing crowds of listeners in the general public clamored for even more. Ten years had brought changes unimaginable in 1912 when the first radio law was enacted. Now woefully inadequate, it urgently needed to be rewritten or replaced. That task fell to Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover who convened the first radio conference, which included radio luminaries from across the spectrum: government, industry, academia, and the amateurs.

The conference and its governing commission concluded by recommending twenty-two wavelength allocations. These would form the foundation for new legislation to finally replace the outdated law. Among the twenty-two, amateurs were assigned a band from 275 to 150 meters, divided into sub-bands for spark, modulated CW, phone, and straight CW, in that order, from long to short wavelengths. The portion from 275 to 200 meters would be shared with educational establishments. To avoid overcrowding in each geographical region, the commission also prescribed a list of practices to be followed when assigning wavelengths to individual stations within each radio service.

Dividing lines between services were still not sharply defined. For example, the conference explicitly proposed that amateur broadcasting again be allowed, reversing its previous position. And it recommended "that direct advertising by radio be absolutely prohibited" – either ignoring or attempting to counter the inexorable pursuit of commercial opportunities in broadcasting.

In early June the legislative process began again with bills introduced in the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce by Minnesota Senator Frank Kellogg as S3694, and the next day in the House Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries by Congressman Wallace H. White of Maine, who had also been a member of Hoover's conference commission.

Following the conference's recommendation, the bills would amend the 1912 law rather than replace it. Commerce's main purpose was to expand the wavelengths available to broadcasters, and define a regulatory mechanism for all services. But the proposed law did not actually specify wavelength allocations or license classes. Instead, it gave authority over such matters to the Secretary of Commerce. Looking on the bright side, the ARRL expected this to finally impose some order on the chaos caused by the phone broadcasting boom. But although Hoover's commission had unanimously recommended that the new law explicitly define the status of the amateur service and its allocation, such a definition had been left out and that was worrisome. Although "private" operation was defined as being permitted between 275 and 150 meters, interpreting that as a grant of wavelengths to amateurs would be "quite a stretch of the imagination" as judged by ARRL secretary Kenneth Warner.



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History of Amateur Radio...

The first three sections of the old law would be replaced in their entirety. Section 1 had stated that no one could transmit without a license granted and regulated by the Secretary of Commerce. In the new law, the role of the secretary would be defined more explicitly: to classify stations and operators, define their service, assign bands, make and manage regulations, characterize transmissions, and assign call letters. Only the president could overrule any of these actions. Furthermore, stations owned and operated by the US government for official business were exempt from the Commerce Department's regulations. In time of war the president could close down any station of any type and remove its apparatus or use and control it while compensating the owner (how was not specified, only that it should be "just").

None of the old law applied to signals confined within a state or territory, unless their effects extended beyond its boundaries or interfered with the reception of signals from outside. The 1912 law referred to the use or operation of "any apparatus for radio communication as a means of commercial intercourse." The 1922 rewrite spoke instead of its use or operation "by telegraphy or telephony as a means of intercourse." It was therefore more specific about modes and was broader in purpose, pertaining not just to commercial uses but to any communication.

Section 2 of both the old and new laws dealt with the handling of station licenses and their non-transferrable nature, precluded granting them to foreign interests, and prescribed how licenses would be managed and revoked. No license could be valid longer than ten years but they could be renewed. The laws also protected against manufacturers using a license to monopolize radio communications.

Section 3 of both laws specified that operation of a licensed station must be performed by a licensed operator. However, the new law required such licensees to demonstrate proficiency in the operation of radio apparatus and in transmission and reception of radio telegraphy and telephony.

New wording in section 4 set forth rules for station construction. It specified that a station could not even be built unless first permitted by the secretary. Such a permit could be revoked if operation did not begin within the time specified in the application. Furthermore, granting a construction permit did not imply or guarantee that a license to operate would be granted at all. On the surface this meant that investing in building a station would be done at the station owner's risk.

The new law's section 5 would establish a twelve-member advisory committee that the secretary could assign to study various matters relating to his regulatory mission. Six members would come from the Departments of State, War, Navy, Agriculture, Post Office, and Commerce. The other six would be chosen by the secretary from among non-government people prominent in radio.

Section 6 would specifically require radiotelephone stations that were capable of interfering with ships to have an operator constantly listening for distress calls while the station operated.

In the original 1912 law, Section 7 itemized references to wavelength allocations. Now they would be stricken entirely since their assignment would become the job of the secretary.

The remaining four sections dealt with administrative matters, including fees for amateurs. The secretary could charge yearly licensing fees on a scale working down from \$10 for special amateur stations and \$2.50 for other amateurs, to 50¢ for operator licenses, both first and second class.

The ARRL board spent weeks analyzing the bill to formulate the League's position and recommendations in time for a congressional hearing on 2 January 1923, at which Maxim presented the proposed amendments. He believed that the presentation, well received by the diverse set of interests present, reflected well on amateur radio, writing,

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History of Amateur Radio...

One could not escape the conclusion that we organized amateurs have commanded the respect of the general public. It seems to be the idea that we have business like methods, good American virility, a dear and also a broad vision, and that we know what we want and how to ask for it.

A transcript of Maxim's testimony before congress filled more than three pages in QST. He began by summarizing the services amateurs performed during the war and the potential for continued service to the country in times of emergency. He then told of the many technical and operating accomplishments that had been led by amateurs over the years. These were reasons why the amendments he was about to propose should be seriously considered. He offered a financial reason too: the fact that 16,000 amateurs altogether spend about \$1.6 million per year on their activities, and that made them "worth having around for this reason alone."

Maxim discussed the general attitude of hams toward the bill, describing the caution with which all such bills introduced in congress were analyzed, to protect the amateur service. He stressed that amateurs unselfishly embraced the modernization of radio law, having been unjustly blamed for interference to broadcast listeners when the real problems had been things such as static, commercial stations, and electrical noises of various sorts. Maxim cited the voluntary quiet times observed by amateurs even though the 1912 law gave them the right to transmit at any time they chose.

So, with simply a desire for "fair and reasonable treatment" the amateurs proposed a set of eight amendments to the White bill, laid out in detail, section and line, presented by Maxim during his testimony. The most important one was the explicit mention of amateur radio as one of the classes of stations and operators that the secretary would regulate. Equally important was excepting amateurs from the subjective judgment of whether a particular station was "in the interest of the general public service," as the bill termed it, before a license was granted. As written, the law did not say how that judgment would be made, and Maxim worried that it could simply be interpreted to exclude an amateur, or all amateurs for that matter, from qualifying for licensing if they were deemed of "no direct and immediate public service."

Aside from improving the wording, the ARRL's final amendment was to make more explicit the preferential treatment given to a government station by more precisely defining what that was. The League was worried about the term being construed as applying to any station, commercial or otherwise, engaged in handling any messages for the government.

In the end, all this hard work proved to be merely a rehearsal for what was to come. The months of effort spent attending the conference, reviewing recommendations, and modifying the proposed legislation came to naught this time. The White-Kellogg bill died when Congress recessed a few weeks later, having met opposition in the Senate that could not be settled in time. In an effort to quickly regroup, Hoover called for another conference on 20 March to see what could be done under the flawed existing law to immediately deal with the broadcast and interference situation, such as freeing up additional wavelengths.

Meanwhile, the ARRL Board of Direction urged all amateurs to observe a variant on the Rochester Plan, a time-sharing scheme, and "refrain from transmission of any kind, for the good of our game" between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. local time, except where local agreements already extend further. To emphasize the plan, the 8ZZ cover drawing for April 1923 depicts a ham sending something on his key, a big clock in the background, hands just past 10:00—"Time for Action."

It was once a wild, unregulated, wide open wireless world. To control the chaos, in 1912 the communal air was cut up into parcels of choice spectrum real estate, with hams relegated to the desert just outside the fence.

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Radioddity

Mobile Radio Check List

By Steve Vansickle, WB2HPR



Now is a great time to check your mobile rig and avoid problems before the snow flies!

With summer weather winding down, it's time to start thinking about the change in seasons, and the effects that cooler and harsh weather may have on the operation of our mobile equipment. Changing road conditions may wreak havoc on our cars -- and the radio gear we have installed. Here are some suggestions for making your mobile radio reliable and safe.

One approach to checking out your installation may begin with the 12.8v DC power wiring.

First, review the manufacturer's installation instructions. That would include the points of connection to the car battery, vehicle ground, fuse holder(s), and the power cable connector at the radio itself.

Ground connections should be made by scraping the paint off the car attachment point if necessary. Connections should be free of dirt, corrosion, grease and other contaminants. The contacts should not be discolored, bent or broken, and should smoothly align, forming a tight fit with mating surfaces. The DC leads should not be pinched, nor should the insulation show nicks and scrapes or other obvious signs of wear and tear. If so, the DC leads should be properly repaired or replaced. Make sure that the proper size fuses are installed -- and never rely on the coax cable shield to provide a DC ground for your radio. Don't rely on temporary stop-gap connections like a cigar lighter plug either. These are not designed to handle the high current demands of a mobile radio. Leave them for your cell phone charger or GPS.

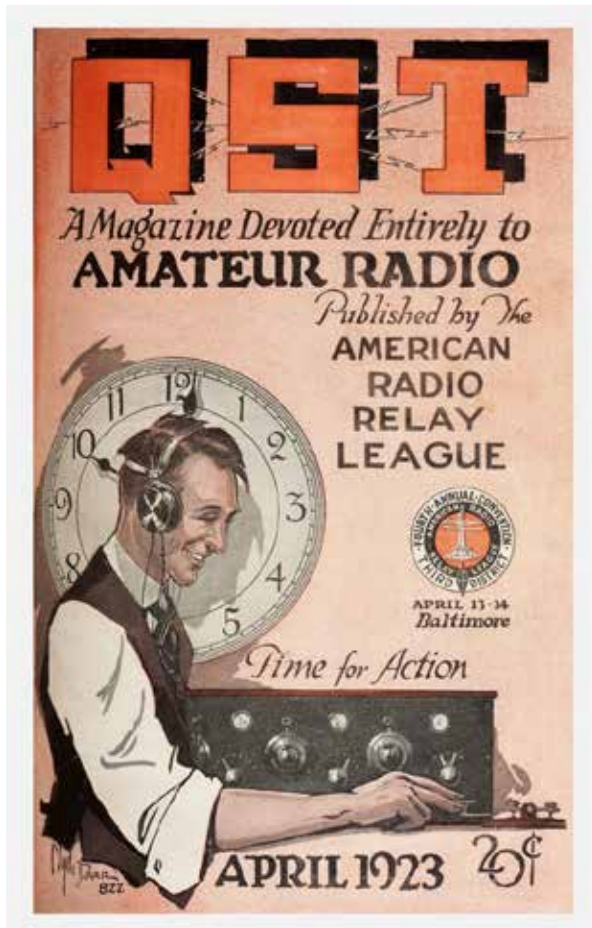
If you are using a magnetic mount antenna, it's always a good idea to give the cable a once-over. Too often they can be easily damaged by improper routing, resulting in a crushed coax -- leading to poor or intermittent receive, transmit, or both. While you're at it, check the antenna plug at the point of connection to the radio. It should be as tight as you can make it. I have seen many instances where the PL-259 connector will work its way loose due to normal road vibration. For extra assurance, you can apply a bit of electrical tape to help reduce the possibility of the plug's locking ring coming loose again. Also, check for corrosion at the point where the whip screws onto the base. Similarly, make these same checks if you are using a permanent or semi-permanent antenna mount such as a hatch or trunk lip mount. Be sure the set screws are good and tight.

Finally, examine the integrity of the mobile radio chassis mount itself. It's not a good idea to make a temporary installation that becomes permanent. In the event of an accident, that little 20 watt dual bander could become a deadly missile if not properly bolted down. That's why the mounting bracket is supplied by the manufacturer. Make sure all hardware is properly tightened. Again -- follow the manufacturer's suggested installation instructions.

These inspection procedures don't take long, and done on a periodic basis, will ensure proper and safe operation of all of your mobile equipment.

Happy and safe travels!

History of Amateur Radio...



Ten years later the next wave of change was just beginning, emerging from the broadcasting boom. This time, active participation in the national radio conference, Hoover's endorsement, and Maxim's testimony had all firmly established amateur radio as a peer among the other services.

But with a growing sense that the airwaves were owned by the public, accommodating broadcasters became the overriding concern and all other services were expected to give something up. Hams were largely willing to comply because they believed that the only way to preserve amateur radio was to get ahead of the trends and voluntarily control, sometimes restrict, their own activity lest they be forced to. And this would intensify as the development of the shortwaves in a few short years makes long-distance signals easy, borders permeable, and international agreements necessary.

The establishment of bands of spectrum to each service will be welcome but increasingly restrictive. Tightening regulations will force hams to develop better equipment, to stay inside their own bands, to eliminate interference with each other and other services, and to get signals that are narrower, cleaner, and more stable.

It will be nearly as big a revolution as the move from spark to CW.

Registration Now Open for AMSAT Space Symposium

Registration is now open for the 39th AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting, Friday through Sunday, October 29 – 31, at the Crowne Plaza AiRE in Bloomington, Minnesota. General registration is \$75, and student registration is \$40. Registration for the Saturday evening Symposium Banquet is an additional \$55. Registration includes a digital copy of the 2021 AMSAT Symposium Proceedings and admission to the Symposium presentations and exhibits.

AMSAT Space Symposium presentations will start at 1 PM CDT on Friday and continue until 5 PM. The AMSAT Reception is set for 7 PM on Friday. AMSAT Space Symposium presentations will continue on Saturday, October 30, 8 AM – 3 PM (with a 1-hour lunch break at noon). The AMSAT General Meeting gets under way at 3 PM on Saturday. The banquet will begin at 7 PM, preceded by a reception at 6 PM. The 3-day event wraps up with the AMSAT Ambassadors' Breakfast on Sunday at 7 AM.

Attendees may make reservations by calling the hotel directly at (952) 854-9000 or (877) 424-4188 (toll free) or online at crowneplazaaire.com. The group name is Amateur Satellite Group. Platinum and Titanium members of the AMSAT President's Club receive free admission to the Symposium and a complimentary lunch with the President on Saturday afternoon. Email members@amsat.org to arrange registration.

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News and Notes

Woman Claims Ham Radio Operations Interferes with Her Insulin Pump

A Marion County, Florida woman is taking on her neighborhood association, in a matter she says puts her health at risk.

Michelle Smith, a Type 1 Diabetic, and a technical consultant claim they have determined that her neighbor's ham radio equipment might have interfered with the doses of insulin being pushed out from her pump.

The 55+ community where she lives hired the consultant and told the neighbor to shut down his amateur radio station.

But a copy of the community's rules shows a change was put in place that could pave the way for other similar antennas to be installed. Meanwhile, Smith's complaint went all the way to the state level.

She wants the Florida Commission on Human Relations to make a determination whether the community's board and management is doing enough to protect her and others with medical devices.

In the manicured subdivision of Indigo East near Ocala, managed by On Top Of The World, two neighbors say they've thought of moving away from the development because of the ongoing dispute.

Smith has been in the back and forth with the community's association for more than a year after noticing the insulin pump she uses to manage her Type 1 Diabetes was suddenly giving the wrong amount of the medicine that keeps her alive.

"So I switched pumps, bought another one, switched reservoirs, threw insulin away, did everything I knew of to troubleshoot," she said.

After doing some research, she suspected the problem might be a few doors down in equipment that is now unplugged and collecting dust. David Birge was told to shut down his ham radio operation after On Top Of The World hired an independent consultant to investigate Smith's complaints.

That engineer determined the "amateur radio operator could have produced" radio frequency levels that exceeded those Smith's insulin pump is intended to operate in.

"I've lost a hobby I've enjoyed more than half of my lifetime, and the equipment sitting in my office is not plugged in," Birge said.

Though his operation was shut down for now, the community's board of directors changed the wording in its rules and regulations to potentially allow more of these amateur radios in the future -- changing the definition of antenna allowed after approval from "a device used to receive" to one that could also "transmit" radio frequency signals.

Smith said she requested a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act to ensure no high frequency signals can be transmitted within 300 feet of her home. Because of that pending litigation, Indigo East's manager said that the company could not comment further.



CALENDAR

September 8, 2021 - 7 pm - Monthly club meeting - in person at Masonic Lodge. Face masks optional for those who are vaccinated.

September 12, 2021 - Saratoga/Ballston Spa Hamfest, Saratoga County Fairgrounds 162 Prospect St, Ballston Spa, NY
Link: <http://k2dll.org>

September 22, 2021 - 7 pm - EGARA Roundtable on 147.270 repeater

Pro Tip: Coiling Coax

Has this ever happened to you? You grab a cable and start to unwind it. Suddenly you have a snarled mess of knots and loops. Now you've got to untangle this thing and it takes forever.

The reason this happens is because the person who put the cable away didn't wind it up correctly. Often when we do the elbow thing, winding it up on our arm, or try to wind it up in coils in our hand.

But did you know that when cables are made they are wound on a spool? This process introduces a natural loop into the cable. So if you don't account for this tendency to loop when you wind them, they will naturally want to coil and twist.

Fortunately there is a better method for coiling cables, cords, and even coax. Called the 'over-under' method. So how does this method work?

First grab the end of your cable and make a simple loop. Next take your free hand, move down the cable and grip. Now twist the cable in the opposite direction while you make the second loop. Then repeat this process, grab the cable, make a simple loop. Then grab again, twist and loop. See how you are making these figure eight motions as you loop the cable? Continue until the cable is coiled up. You can then secure it with velcro or some other type of tie.



Looking for...

- Rens. Co. Search and Rescue is looking for a 2 meter whip for sale or donation. Needed for communications truck.

Contact Nick at kd2jcr@gmail.com

For Sale...

- Ameritron AL-811H in good condition, wired for 120 volts. Will demonstrate at time of pickup. \$700.

Contact Steve at: svansick@nycap.rr.com

- IFR-1100S Service Monitor. With Spectrum Analyzer and Oscilloscope. Tested and Calibrated last year. AM - FM, CTCSS Generator, In very good condition. \$875.00

- Yaesu FT-2900 Programming Software by RT Systems Cable included. used once. Registered and includes password. \$29.00

- UHF RX Amp, 1 input 3 outputs. 12V. SO-239s \$10

- Several old desktop and mini notebook computers good for projects like Echolink or working with older radio program software. Good deals

Contact John at: radiowizz@aol.com

- Hamshack Hotline Phones - Cisco SPA-303. They are cleaned, factory reset with EGARA members # in directory. Comes with power supply. Just \$21 each.

Contact Dave at: WA2WAP@VERIZON.NET

- Heil mic boom Model SB-2, asking \$ 25.00
- Battery Eliminator for Wouxun HTs, asking \$ 10.00
- 2m/440 Mag mount antenna Model BCA-300 w/ sma female connector, asking \$25.00

Contact Walt at: n2wjr07@gmail.com

Got stuff to sell, swap, or looking to buy?

List it here for FREE!

Email W2RBJ@outlook.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.